



First photo of train maniac



JUNGLE BALLS Celebs will be forced to eat kangaroo's bits



TELLY chiefs are to serve up a disgusting bush tucker trial in the new series of I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here. One celeb will have to munch a kangaroo's privates to win a proper meal for their pals.

Full story: Pages 12 & 13





Tears for heroes



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BUNGLING Ministry of Defence chiefs will be blasted today for a series of kit blunders

series of kit blunders costing £1.7billion. A report from the Government's spend-ing watchdog will reveal orders for new aircraft, submarines and high-tech missile

systems are months, and in some cases years, behind schedule. And a new aircraft carrier could end up without planes because a planned fighter turned out to be too heavy.

eavy. Todav's National Audit Office repo

will add to pressure on Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon. He's already under fire after combat armour, tank spare parts and anti-chemi-cal suits failed to arrive for UK troops in Irag.

ray. The MoD's biggest 20

equipment orders were on average three months behind sched-ule, according to the report.

report.
And they've cost And they've cost £1.7billion more than the original budget allowed for. The Tories called the criticism "damning" last night.

No 10 AMBITION: Gordon

by MACER HALL Political Editor

Warning to 'lame duck' Blair

GORDON Brown ignited the feud at the heart of the Government last night by staking his claim to be PM.

In a direct challenge to Tony Blair's authority, the Chancellor said Britain was at a turning point'

In an attack on the direction of the Government, Mr Brown added: "We need a stronger sense of our destiny as a country." His

comments in a TV interview infuriated Downing Street.
But a growing number of Labour MPs are fed up with the Prime Minister and want to see a change at the top.

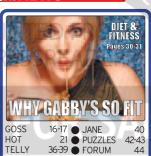
Drifting

They fear Mr Blair's plans of serving just one more term made him a "lame duck" and left the Government drifting. In the interview, the BBC's Andrew Marr repeatedly asked Mr Brown about his widely-

known ambition to be PM. Mr Brown said: "I've never got into this business about speculating about who does what. "It's what you do in the office you're involved in that counts." Pressed about his ambitions, the Chancellor added: "I believe we're at a turning point for our country. I want to do what's right for the country." Insiders last night suspected Mr Brown could make a last bid for the Labour leadership before the general election.

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INFO STATION

TODAY: Plenty of cloud and breezy at times across the United Kingdom with isolated showers and drizzle. There will be a few brighter spells over England and Wales, although most places will stil see some showers. see some showers.

OUTLOOK: Overcast and dull over Scotland on Thursday with a few showers and some drizzle. Sunny intervals across England and Wales with some isolated showers. Breezy at times.



Friday

Turkey United States

ch Republic

Australia ... Canada

Mexico South Africa Thailand

Cyprus

EURO Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Holland Portugal, Spain € 1.44

POUND ABROAD

2.45 dollars 2.22 dollars

...... 0.83 pounds 45.15 korunas

.. 21.23 pesos 11.51 rand 75.38 baht .. 2708580 lira ... 1.86 dollars

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£10m BIRTHDAY DRAW SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6 **5 17 23 26 42 48**

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 **2 3 7 13 17 25 26**

No ticket matched all 7 balls for the £30,000 prize

SATURDAY LOTTO

NOVEMBER 6 2 26 29 36 39 40 10

Three ticket holders share the £7.8m jackpot TRA: 01, 12, 31, 32, 39, 45 TBall 02, 09, 16, 19, 20, (Tb 11) Extra winners. Three T'Ball winner get £250,000 each

WEDNESDAY LOTTO

NOVEMBER 3 5, 25, 33, 35, 36, 39 Bonus Ball: 43 One ticket won the £3.4m jackpot.

: 3, 17, 31, 33, 39, 44 T'Ball: 7, 9, 17, 25, 27 (T'b 5) e won the £2.3m jackpot. One £250k T'Ball winner.

EURO LOTTO FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5 6, 19, 25, 42, 49 Lucky Star Numbers 1, 7

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STAR NEWS

and

GOSS EXCLUSIVE

■ by AMY WATTS

ANGRY boozers are staging a protest to stop Charlotte Church from singing in her parents' new pub.

They don't want to hear the multi-millionaire star blasting away on the karaoke while they are sinking

their pints.

And they've started a petition calling for Charlotte not to become a

ing for Charlotte not to become a regular performer.
Customer Huw Burke, 34, stormed: "If you can't have a pint without Ave Maria destroying your eardrums then what has the world come to?"
Punters at The Robin Hood in Pontcanna, Cardiff, grew concerned when it was bought by Charlotte's parents recently.

recently.

Alarm

Maria and James Church snapped up a 25-year lease on the bar where their daughter first belted out her favourite songs.

It cost them £80,000 and they have already started to spruce it up.
But alarm bells began to ring when it was revealed that Charlotte,

18, had been invited to the official re-opening. Regulars are worried the watering hole will become a mini-stage for

And they say they will do all they can to stop

the pub from becoming a showcase for the diva. Charlotte — who is worth \$5.5 million — has revealed that she will quit showbiz before she turns 30 and move to the United States.





Branson's quest

VIRGIN boss Richard Branson launches a reality TV show in the States tonight.
Rebel Billionaire: Branson's Quest for the Best promises to make the winner president of his empire.
Sixteen budding businessmen and women will face each other in daredevil challenges. Each week one is dropped and left behind on an airport runway.

COLIN Farrell gets his willy out in his new movie – after it was slashed from a previous flick.
But don't hold your breath girls, it's nothing to write home about. There's a brief full-frontal of the Irishman in his sword-and-sandals epic Alexander.
One critic who saw the press screening in Los Angeles said of his tackle: "It's nothing to be ashamed of – but people weren't gasping either." Farrell had been due to bare all for the film A Home At The End Of The World, but producers gave the scene the chop when test audiences cheered the sight of him starkers.

As in the earlier film, Farrell plays a bisexual character in Alexander.

Bust-up hat led o trai traged

by STEPHEN RIGLEY and JAMES WICKHAM

GAY chef Brian Drysdale killed himself and six others in the horrific rail crash because he'd had a bust-up with his lover.

Pals say that he took his own life because he was heartbroken at losing his long-term partner.

losing his long-term partner:

A fellow chef at the Berkshire conference centre where he worked said:
"He was a bit of a loner. He didn't talk a lot. He would very rarely snap out of his dark moods."

One friend said: "He'd split up with his lover and was a broken man. Having a few more friends might have helped him. He was a complex man."

Detectives are checking CCTV footage from the Wokefield Park conference centre, near Mortimer, Berks where he was working before Saturday night's level crossing tragedy. He told his colleagues that he was "feeling ill".

One said Drysdale, 48, was finding it hard to control his emotions in the days leading up to the tragedy, saying: "He was shouting a lot and would snap at the slightest thing.

Moods

"When he was around in a bad mood it was time to back off. I think being gay made it harder for him because he could have a bit of a siege mentality. "There is no way he did this because he was picked on for being gay. That never happened as far as I know. When he left he said he was ill. He gav split had crushed the trainee chef. He said: "A hot of people are feeling guilty. They knew he was about to take his life." Another said the gay split had crushed the trainee chef. He said: "A hot of people are feeling guilty. They knew he was having a bad time. "He was having a lot of black moods and closing up. All of those people are something to stop this awful tragedy. "He was madly in love and thought his world had fallen apart when it ended. But as blokes you just expect him to get over and on with it." Neighbours described him as a quiet loner, who lived in a bedsit in Reading. A neighbour said: "There was some high-piched shouting last week, the type you think: "Shut up for God's sake and not the type you think you better call 999 before someon gets killed." Drysdale, who had short, dark hair and was often unshaven, is thought to have sat naked in his Mazda 323 as he made final phone call on Saturday night. British Transport police superintendent Andy Ball said there was no evidence of alcohol in his blood. He would not confirm reports that he was naked when paramedics found his body. He said the level crossing was on Drysdale's route home from the Wokefield Park Golf and Conference centre.

entre. Supt Ball said officers were checking

Supt Ball said officers were checking his mobile phone records and carrying out a mechanical probe on his car. Drysdale had driven to the secluded level crossing near Upton Nervet on Saturday evening and parked his car in the path of the 17.35 First Great



ravel chaos for

ce are checking the ground assengers' possessions as arriages are removed. olacing up to 600 yards of points and trackside equip-will take about a week. The



WHERE HE WORKED: Drysdale drove from Wokefield Park to crossing

Western London to Plymouth train.
Last night, a pal said: "Brian was normally very quiet and reserved. He was open about his homosexuality but very secretive about a lot of other things, but every now and then he would just snap and lose his temper.

"He would get into a real rage. We used to see him in the gay pubs around Reading. He enjoyed a drink. I stilcan't believe that this happened."

Another pal said: "Over the past few weeks Brian had sunk to a new low He's always kept himself to himself but recently he had been really down and depressed – it's the worst I've seen him. I'm shocked by what he has done but he had been going through hell.

"It seemed like he was carrying the world on his shoulders and I just wish he had opened up more and let us in. "There are people who could have helped him. Brian probably drank too much but worked hard and was good at his job. He wasn't a bad bloke. "What he did just beggars belief an because of him six innocent people are dead. I keep asking myself. 'Is there anything I could have done to stop it'?" A British Transport Police spokesman said: "The mobile phone is clearly important evidence. We are checking phone records and talking to his family and friends about his background to find out why he was on that crossing."

a pint of lager with Drysdale in Reading's Three B's café on Wednesday afternoon –72 hours before the tragedy.

He said: "He seemed happy. I'd known him for five years and he was always cheerful. He had been at Wokefield Park for 15 months and saw it as a career move. He never gave any clues he was troubled. He had many friends at the Three B's.

Shock

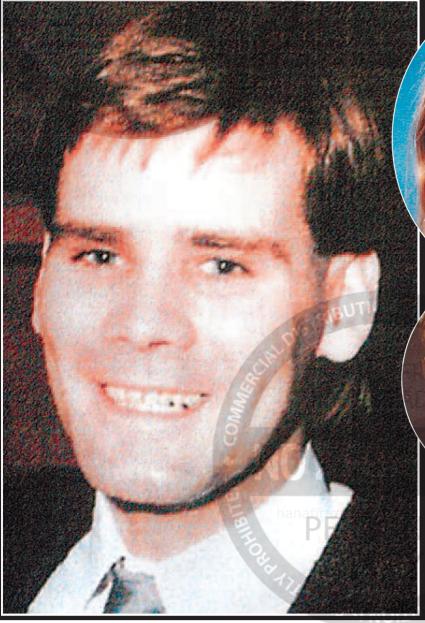
"My partner and I were with him on Wednesday. As usual, Brian was smil-ing but it might have been a front. On Wednesday night he was with a bloke – I don't know if he was his partner."

Yesterday tributes were paid to the six other victims. Emily Webster, 14, of Moretonhampstead, Devon, was described by staff at Maynard School, Exeter, as a "highly independent and exceptionally talented girl".

Deputy head Ann Boyce said: "She had a very quirky sense of humour and kept her friends endlessly amused. She was a very bright girl and had lots of potential." Friends are starting a book of remembrance for her.

And the family of Leslie Charles Matthews, a grandfather of four, said: "Anyone who knew Charlie will remember his sense of humour and his friendly, sociable personality."

Mr Matthews, 72, had been travelling





VICTIMS OF DESPAIR: Clockwise from left – car driver Brian Drysdale; Emily Webster; Barry Strevens; Leslie Matthews; Stanley Martin; nine-year-old Louella Main with her mother Anjanette Rossi Anjanette Rossi

home to Warminster, Wilts, after watching his team Reading beat Stoke 1-0 at their Madjeski Stadium.

Management consultant Barry Strevens, 55, of Wells, Somerset, leaves a wife Jacqueline and two sons, Ollie, two, and five-month-old Toby.

Jacqueline heard he had died in the crash while taking Ollie to hospital after an asthma attack. A family statement said: "Barry was a wonderfully kind, generous and gentle man with a vibrant sense of humour:
"His sparkling personality radiated warmth and love and made a positive impact on everyone he came into contact with. It has been a wonderful privilege to know him."

IUM IS SO SO

DRYSDALE'S shocked family yesterday said they had no idea why he'd want to kill himself. Parents Keith and Henrietta Drysdale, in their late 70s, are amazed he'd take anyone else's life. Tearful Henrietta, known as Etta, told pal Dayline Vickers (pictured left): "I am devastated. He must have thought the train would knock him off the road. He'd

never have imagined he'd hurt those people. I am heartbroken at what has happened to all those families."

Mrs Drysdale said: "Police came to our door on Monday and said they had bad news. I knew it was Brian. I don't know why – it must have been a mother's instinct. Until then I did not know anything was wrong."

Mrs Vickers said: "They saw him two weeks ago and he was fine."



Name Code
You've Been Calling My
Boytriend (RATESH) ... 1539
You've Been Calling My
Boytriend (RATESH) ... 1540
Caught Spanking The
Caught Spanking The
Monkey On CCTV ... 1562
Overspent Credit Card ... 1001
Secret Female Admirer ... 1015
Checky Secret Admirer

..1020 ...1583

ans mourn as football legend Emlyn Hughes loses cancer fight



TOP DEFENCE: Emlyn reels back with hands up as Princess Anne threatens to handbag him

FANS and friends wished football legend Emlyn "Crazy Horse" Hughes a fond farewell yesterday as he lost his brave battle with brain cancer. The former Liverpool and England captain, who became a top TV sports personality, could hardly walk or see after surgery, chemo and radiotherapy on his tumour. But dad-of-two Emlyn, 57, stunned friends and family with his courage by attending a cancer charity fundraising event just three weeks ago in his wheelchair, and nothing would stop him giving away his daughter Emma, 29, when she married last February. His gruelling treatment for the aggressive brain tumour, discovered 15 months ago when he collapsed after cycling, took its toll in his final months. His wife Barbara said he deteriorated in the last few days, adding: "He died at home in Sheffield with his family."

Last night tributes poured in for Emlyn, who played 550 times for Liverpool and 62 for England – 23 as captain.

After quitting the game he starred on BBC's hit quiz show A Question Of Sport, where he once breached royal protocol by huging team member Princess Annevery time she got an answer right. She threatened to "handbag" him – but he was honoured with an OBE in 1980.

Former rugby star Bill Beaumont, his rival quiz team captain, said: "He was a lovely, enthusiastic bloke.

"He was a team player, he liked the dressing room humour and he was trying to laugh at himself as well."

Tony Blair's spokesman said: "the viring to laugh at himself as well."

ne was trying to laugh at nimseir as well."

Tony Blair's spokesman said: "The Prime Minister is saddened but thinks Emlyn's playing career speaks for itself."

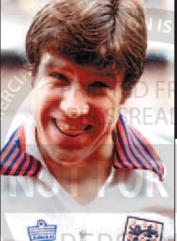
Tory leader and Liverpool fan Michael Howard said: "I met Emlyn several times and always enjoyed his company. He was larger than life, with a huge personality to match his talent."

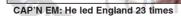
Liverpool council leader Mike Storey said he was one of the city's "favourite adopted sons" adding: "Emlyn led Liverpool FC

through its finest moments and greatest triumphs." Emlyn was chief patron of Sheffield-based epileptic charity Fable. Operations manager Sarah Green said: "He's been involved since it started 10 years ago. He donated prizes and organised a celebrity football tournament."

Touched

David Hayes, who organised a tribute night for the Emlyn Hughes Cancer Appeal last month, said: "Emlyn was very unwell but determined to make it. He was only going to stay 20 minutes, but stayed the night. "Nothing was too much trouble for him. Whenever there was a store to be opened, a village society event, or a Cubs or Scouts do,





he would be there." Dr David Levy, neuro-oncologist at Sheffield's Weston Park Cancer Hospital, said: "He touched the hearts of many, including myself – it has been a privilege to have cared for him." Pal and former Produced.

nearts of many, including mysen—it has been a privilege to have cared for him."
Pal and former England star Carlton Palmer said: "Emlyn was a legend and inspired many kids to play the game. This is a sad day for football and for all the many people who knew Emlyn."
Liverpool chief executive Rick Parry said: "Those lucky to see him play will recall his boundless enthusiasm, 100% commitment and unrelenting passion whenever he had the Liver Bird close to his chest."
Liverpool supporters secretary Les Lawson said: "I am devastated. He was a hero, right up there with Kenny Dalglish."



RED RULE: He wears a mini European Cup. (Inset) with FA Cup



NO STOPPING HIM: He gives Emma away at wedding



GRIEF: Club's flag

Distributed by Newspaper Dissal



GAGGED: Amarjit Chohan

Family horror deaths

by TOM SAVAGE
A BUSINESSMAN whose body was found floating in the sea had been drugged, gagged and bound before being murdered, a court heard yesterday.
Amarjit Chohan had been held captive at the home of convicted drug dealer Kenneth Regan and forced to sign over his haulage company, Richard Horwell, prosecuting, told the Old Bailey.

Vanished

Regan, 55, of Wilton, Wilts, is accused of murdering the freight boss, his wife Nancy, their two sons and mother-in-law to cover up the theft of the business. Regan and co-defendants, William Horney, 52, of Bournemouth, and Peter Rees, 39, of Rowlands Castle, Hants., all deny murdering the five family members who vanished in February last year.

Mr Horwell said Regan wanted to use the import-export business as a front for importing drugs and for people to think the family, from Hounslow, west London, had fled the taxman and gone abroad.

The case continues.

RAPISTS and child sex offenders in ice are to be chemi-

Squad's on a high

A NEW drugs squad, set up to counter a tide of cocaine flooding the streets, seized nearly £1 million worth of the drug in its first day.

The elite London team, made up of 70 hand-picked officers from Scotland Yard, Customs, the National Criminal Intelligence Service and City of London Police, is targeting "middle market" dealers who are providing bulk wholesale quantities of the drug.

Senior officers have been stunned by the size of their early finds and admit they have no idea how much cocaine has actually made it on to the streets of the capital.

DISNEY DISMAY

FRENCH theme park Euro Disney lost £101 million this year after failing to increase visitor numbers on last year's 12.4 million.

UNGEST



ANOTHER new face for Anne

■ by IAIN BURCHELL
■ GOODBYE to the wrinkly link – but telly host Anne Robinson says her latest youthful look is due to healthy living not the surgeon's knife.

The Queen of Mean, 60, sparked speculation she had gone plastic fantastic again after looking 20 years younger during filming of The Weakest Link.

An insider on the new series of the BBC quiz said: "You could say Anne has gone all American. She looks fabulous – if a little too perfect."

But a source close to Anne said: "She has not had any more surgery. It's down to good living."

The acid-tongued presenter used to deny having had surgery, insisting a brilliant make-up artist and weight loss had given her a youthful new look.

But earlier this year she eventually admitted getting a facelift – and advised all women to do the same.

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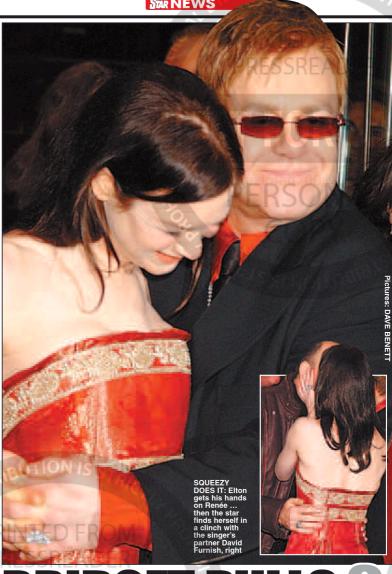
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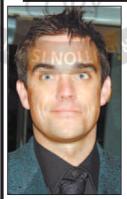


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y they're both gay)



BRIDGET FAN: Singer Robbie

by ANTHONY WALTON
MAN-hungry Bridget Jones's
quest to find a fella finally
ended last night when she
picked up two . . . but both were

gay.

Actress Renée Zellweger, 35, who again plays the stressedout movie blonde in the
sequel, enjoyed a giggle with
Sir Elton John and partner

Sir Elton John and partner David Furnish.

She and co-star Hugh Grant, right, joined a host of stars at the West End premiere of Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason. Singer Robbie Williams, Big Brother's Davina McCall and comics Rowan Atkinson and Harry Enfield all turned out.

The film opens on Friday.





CLAIM: Stagg in '92

Stagg payout clash

POLICE have vowed to stop Colin Stagg getting £1million in compensation.

He was yesterday looking forward to a massive payout after police named their new suspect.

Stagg, 41, said: "it's exciting news. Let's hope they've got the right man this time." But a police source said the man cleared of murdering Rachel Nickell will not get "a single penny".

Limit

And the insider denied Stagg's claim that he had issued a writ against the force in 1995.

in 1995.
The source said:
"The time limit to sue for malicious prosecution is six years and that passed long ago. He won't get a single penny.
"On top of that, if you have been acquitted at court then you have been completely cleared."



THIS is psycho killer Robert Napper, right, the new prime suspect for the murder of beautiful Rachel Nickell.

A tiny DNA sample found on Rachel's underwear has linked killer Napper to the brutal 1992 murder on Wimbledon Common.

The DNA, a one-in-five-million match, was found when police reopened their probe into the 1992 killing.

mach, was round when police reopened their probe into the 1992 killing.

Detectives have been staggered at the latest twist in the long hunt for the killer, who stabbed Rachel 49 times and sexually assaulted her in front of her two-year-old son Alex on Wimbledon Common.

Napper is a near double of Colin Stagg, the loner who was acquitted of the murder in 1994 after a police "honey trap" went wrong.

He is also a near-perfect match of the police photofit made at the time of 23-year-old Rachel's death.

Napper, 38, is currently in Broadmoor after being convicted in Broadmoor after being convicted in Broadmoor after being convicted in a serial killer may have murdered both Rachel and Samantha.

But they were refused permission to question Napper because he was said to be too unwell. Instead their hunt led them to Stagg.

Suffocated

But Samantha's mother Margaret Morrison never doubted that her girl's killer had murdered Rachel. Heartbroken Margaret, 53, died of a "broken heart" on the eve of Napper's trial for the 1993 murders. Blonde Samantha, who bore a striking resemblance to Rachel, was mutilated and sexually assaulted, possibly after her death. Her daughter Jazmine, four, was sexually abused and suffocated in her bed at home, just miles from the scene of Rachel's murder. News that Samantha's killer is now the prime suspect for Rachel's murder backs up the theory Mrs Morrison took to her grave. Her widower husband Jack, 70 – Samantha's stepdad – said at his Aberdeen home yesterday: "Police linked Samantha and Rachel's deaths together france."

■ by JAMES WICKHAM

years ago because of the similarities, but they just didn't have the evidence." Jack said the family felt Napper faked madness to avoid prison.

He went on: "What worries me is that when police try to talk to him about Rachel and the DNA evidence he'll pretend to be mad and they won't be able to do anything."

won't be able to do any-thing."
Rachel's son Alex is now living with his father Andre Hanscombe in France.



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STANEWS

N LOOK WHO'S

ANYTHING Who can do, I ■ by NIGEL PAULEY

can do better!
That's the message Billie Piper is sending to Chris Evans as she strolls hand-in-hand with Christopher Eccleston.

Christopher Eccleston.

Billie, 22, and 40-year-old
Christopher were out and about in
Cardiff where they are filming the
new series of scif-ficlassic Dr Who.
Blonde Billie has found the
Manchester-born Time Lord a
comfort during her painful split
from ginger-nut Evans.
Billie reportedly told friends she
hoped to patch things up with the

ex-Virgin Radio DJ - only for him to grow closer to new squeeze Carley Ayres. Evans, 38, got together with advertising executive Carley, 31, after splitting from Billie, who plays the time-travelling Doctor's sidekick Rose Tyler.

Jealous

However, he has been jealous of Billie's growing friendship with the publicity-shy Cracker star Eccleston who never talks about his private life but who is believed to be a single

chap. What better fella for mixed-up Billie to turn to in a bid to make her mega-rich husband insanely jealous? A close friend said: "Billie gets on really well with Christopher." He has become a good friend and has helped her through a tough time. "Apart from her marriage break-up she has been working on a major acting part—her first big telly role which is a lot for anyone to cope with.

with.
"They have got close but it's unlikely there's anything going on between them.
"They are more like brother and sister."





A REAL HANDFUL: Christopher and Billie can't seem to let go

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STR COLUMN

dominikdiamond@btconnect.com

Getting a handle on erroris

the target of a terrorist attack at Real Madrid's training ground this week. This is the second time that the

team has been targeted. So far no one has been harmed, which is astonishing when you consider that lousy defence.

when you consider that lousy defence.

In the first attack, Islamic extremists tried to drive a truck full of explosives into the Bernabeu stadium on match day. But their plans were thwarted when they found out just how expensive at ticket is. In the second, three cars were set on fire using explosive devices in a posh suburb of Madrid. That's nothing. You should see what the local kids have been doing with fireworks round our way all week.

have been doing with fireworks round our way all week.

Far more ominous, though, is the name of the organisation that carried out these attacks. Martyrs For Morocco. Why should we fear them? Because they have a catchy name. It's got an enssage. It's got an aim. It's got alliteration!

This is where terrorist organisations have gone wrong over the years. They're so hung up on a name which states their intention and origins – the Irish Republican Army, the Popular Front For The Liberation of Palestine, the We Will Blow Up Infidels Who Like Jesus Squad – that they forget they need to think of more popstar-style names to win the hearts and minds of the public.

Regardless of their violence, I'm sure the public has a soft spot for the Tamil Tigers of Sri Lanka because they sound like a WWE tag team.

Likewise, the Sendero Luminoso of Peru may have started a rebellion

that led to the deaths of 70,000, but in English their name means Shining Path. That's gotta be worth something.

And special mention must go to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia who have stuck by their militant title but reorganised the letters into the word FARC so it sounds amusingly like a sweary word to appeal to schoolboys.

Imagine what could happen if those urging Ireland for the Irish bandied together under the new name of the People of Ireland's Socialist State Over Forced Federalisation and told the British government to PISS OFF?

OFF:

OFF?
Or if al-Qaida
decided that they
weren't getting
any credibility any credibility sounding like a kebab shop and changed their name to the Bearded

Illosis and a wears her to the Bearded ay to comundesirables Movenent? They wouldn't even be referred to as terrorists any more. They'd by called BUMmers. The PLO could branch out and become the We Intend Liberating Lebanese Youth. And see what the Israelis do when faced with WILLY.

Ind you, the PLO are about to undergo extreme changes if Yasser Arafat dies in Paris. Over the weekend there was a lot of confusion. Palestinian officials said he was in a coma and then said he was not.

was not.

The hospital said there had been no change in his condition while other sources claimed he'd recovered well enough to have telephone

ered well enough to have telephone conversations.

And the French newspaper Liberation reported that he was brain dead, although it was pointed out that this didn't stop George Bush winning a second term.

Paula's spirited victory

T'S not just that Paula Radcilife won the New York marathon at the weekend — it's the manner of her victory. Hewn out of pure effort, straining to cross the line a mere four seconds ahead of Susan Chepkeme — the closest finish in the history of the race.

Now that's not the kind of race won by a choker. By winning in this maner she has stuck two fingers up at the massed ranks of writers (myself included) who panned her after her abject performances in Athens.

Good on her. You learn far more from failure than you do success. It is harder to go on after losing than it is to go on after winning. Paula has done both of these. And that takes an amazing kind of spirit.

Barking idea

A FIRM called Mid-knight Creation in California is now selling prescription glasses for dogs. What kind of eye chart do they use and how do they know if the dog can read?

Lisp service

■ODAY'S dumb text CDAY'S dumb text comes from Mark Robinson. "Who made dyslexia so difficult to spell? Was it the same heartless bastard who put an 's' in the word 'lisp'?



INALLY, a road policy from this Government that makes sense. A report commissioned by Alistair Darling from Leeds University has repo Darling recom Darling from Leeds University has recommended a higher rate of tax for parents who drive gas-guzzling 4x4s and clog up our roads with their school runs. We have a nursery on our street and a school round the corner. Every morning and afternoon it is chock full of

what appear to be tanks with leather upholstery. It's like the Somme with expensive blonde hairdos. And that's what makes it worse. These

And that's what makes it worse. These trucks are driven by women. Well, I say "driven" but I think "aim" is a better word.

I have seen ancient furniture delivery vans drive up our single lane road with more precision. I swear I can hear my

wing mirrors screaming out "save me" as they're borne down upon by some monstrous Range Rover.
Why do they need these cars in town?
Last time I checked our city centres weren't connected with mud tracks and covered with mountain forests. And in spite of problems with child obesity I'm sure the kids could just about fit into a Nissan Micra.

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BOOKIES are taking an L of an X Factor hammering from switched-on telly punters.

And they fear there's more to come as the hit TPV1 reality show's weekly evictions become ever more predictable. For the last fortnight the pre-show favourites for eviction have been duly booted off.

And that's been a big blow to bookmakers, who have had to pay out large wads of cash.

Now they're hoping for an upset at the weekend.

Now they re noping for an upset as weekend.
William Hill spokesman Rupert
Adams said last night: "We have taken a bit of a hammering over the last few weeks, which is not that surprising as

the show has followed the form. We will be hoping, probably unrealistically, for an upset this week." Girl group Voices With Soul are odds-on favourites to be kicked off on Saturday.

Favourite

Meanwhile, Opera boys G4 got in a bit of pre-show practice yesterday, busking in London (above).

Young Irish singer Tabby Callaghan is 9-4 favourite to win the show outright EastEnders babe Jill Halipenny, 29, is now odds-on favourite to win the BBC's Strictly Come Dancing.

But singer Aled Jones, 34, continues to race up the betting.



EXCLUSIVE by PETER DYKE

ONE I'm A Celebrity star faces a dinner from hell this year – a kangaroo's

testicle.
Telly chiefs had been hoping Telly chiefs had been hoping to keep the nightmare bush tucker trial stunt under wraps. But word leaked out when they tested it on one of the contestants appearing on a German version of the TV jungle show.

Busty blonde funnygirl Désirée Nick was picked by viewers to taste the disgusting delicacy in her bid to win a slap-up meal for her fellow celebs.

The brave lass was seen by millions of stunned German telly fans gobbling down the kangaroo's testicle.

The stomach-churning footage

The stomach-churning footage was one of the highlights of the show and provoked the biggest reaction.

reaction.

Now TV bosses have decided to repeat the stunt when our celebs arrive in the Aussie rainforest. It means that model Sophile Anderton, former All Saints singer Natalie Appleton, comic

Bush tucker celeb will be having a

Joe Pasquale or East17 star Brian Harvey could be picked on by viewers to face the ultimate challenge—to chew a roo's privates. A source said: "It's probably the most disgusting dare we've ever dreamed up for the show. "When we staged it for the German celebs, no-one thought Désirée would actually do it but she did because it meant winning a proper dinner for the other stars.

Hairy

"It was quite horrific watching her squeeze the ball out of the kangaroo's hairy bits and then pop it in her mouth. "And as if that wasn't enough, she had to munch her way through grubs and bugs afterwards. It makes great telly." Viewers ended up voting her the

winner of the German

winner of the German show. Meanwhile, proof that the jungle trek can be really treacherous came yesterday when a TV crew member nearly died after being bitten by a spider.

The technician was preparing a camp site for the stars when he was bitten on the hand by a funnel-web spider, whose poisonous bites are fatal unless victims receive urgent medical attention. He had to stay in hospital for 36 hours under close supervision before being allowed back to work. But executive producer Alex Gardiner insists precautions have been taken to ensure that the celebrities are as safe as possible. He said: "There are so many cameras about, if we see something dangerous we go in and remove it."



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Hubby's cry for Oz help

A HENPECKED husband dispatched his missus to the other side of the world on TV's Wife Swap to save his unhappy marriage.

Millions watching last night's Channel 4 reality show saw how career-crazy mum Elissa Baker, 40, is such a workaholic everyone else in her house plays second fiddle. Downtrodden husband Steven, 46, has revealed how he pleaded with the show's bosses to get Elissa shipped out to another family so she would realise what she had at home.

Control

And he begged them: "If you don't put her on Wife Swap, I think my marriage is heading down the tubes."

The banking adviser was sent to Australia to swap with acid-tongued mum-of-six Tanya Dingle, 39, from Melbourne.
And control freak Elissa hated every second.
She admitted last night: "I wouldn't mind living with the Dingles in Emmerdale – but I couldn't live with the Dingles in Australia."
At home in Crumpsall, Manchester, Steven added: "I had to do something."



Roge



HARD TO SWALLOW: Peter

BLIND X Factor star Peter Jones

BLIND X Factor star Peter Jones says he likes to suck his glass eyes – and once swallowed one. The singer, who is one half of the duo 2 To Go, has been blind since he was 15 months old. Peter developed cancer and had to have both his eyes removed. But as he grew older he overcame the trauma of being blind by playing pranks on his mates. The 24-year-old, whose pop dreams were shattered after 2 To Go were booted off the show on

■ by PETER DYKE

Saturday, said: "A few months after the operation I had some glass eyes fitted to my sockets. "They were blue to match my real eyes and I quickly became comfortable with them. "In fact I used to take them out and suck them. Once I swallowed one and we had to wait until I passed it again — not pleasant." Peter and co-star Emma Paine, 23, were big viewer favourites on

The X Factor. Fans even thought the pair were romantically linked but they always insisted they were just good friends.

But Peter, from Edwinstowe, near Nottlingham, has now admitted he did once have the hots for Emma – but she wasn't interested. He revealed: "I did have a thing for about two years but she didn't feel the same way about me."

The pair will be seen on The X Factor tour next year and plan to continue doing club gigs.

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STAR NEWS







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Parents in Christmas stampede

SMASH-HIT movie The owash-HII movie The Incredibles will hijack Christmas because the superhero toys are a huge must-have for kids.

Industry experts say the fun-filled flick will lead to a £1bil-lion pay day for its producers.

Toy orders for the family of sub-urban superheroes, including fat dad and supersonic children, have already doubled across UK shops, even before the film has opened in Britain.

Frenzy

And toymakers Hasbro say demand is set to outstrip the Buzz Lightyear frenzy in 1999 when parents even jumped on jets bound for the US to beat the shortage here. Back then Buzz Lightyear toys flew off the shelves as clamouring parents queued for hours to grab their children the toy in the final countdown to Christmas. But the Mr Incredible toy, with his puff-out chest, and the

■ by MARIANNA PARTASIDES

Incredimobile car are already in huge demand and are on course to become this year's must-have present.

A Hasbro spokes-woman said: "From our experience this is quite impressive, there's already ashort-

aneauy a sh or t - age.

"We tried to buy some from the shops and it's going really fast.

"We needed three and there was only one left.

"It's outperforming Buzz Lightyear already - they're just going so fast."

The new computer animated comedy from Walt Disney and Pixar has even broken the previous Disney record set by Finding Nemo - taking £50million in the

first weekend it opened in America.

This year parents are tipped to splash out more than £1.8billion on kids' Christmas presents, according to a survey by C h u r c h i 11 Insurance.

That's an averdage of £150 per parent, and The Incredibles toys look like they will be a big part of that. The toymakers' spokeswoman added: "The talking Mr Incredible is the big hit. Orders have doubled since the film opened in America.

"Mad it's going so well in

doubled since the film opened in America.
"And it's going so well in Britain it's bound to be the biggest toy this Christmas."
A Toys R Us spokesman said: "We anticipate that The Incredibles will be very popular over the Christmas season. We're stocking a wide range of Incredibles products, including main characters and the car."

Drive-by killers blasted friends in revenge attack





Shock for scooter kid

A BOY stopped by police riding a battery-powered scooter on a pavement ended up in court. Michael Fishpool, 13, of Marske, Cleveland, was given six penalty points by Teesside magistrates yesterday for having no licence or insurance.

£1m bets mystery

BRITAIN'S first betting-shop millionaire punter had still not picked up his winnings last night.

The mystery man has until 6pm tomorrow to claim the record £1,327,657 from a £480 perm bet on Saturday's Scoop6 at a Betfred shop in Greater Manchester.

■ by JERRY LAWTON

VICTIM: Charlene Ellis

TWO teenage girls died in a hail of machinegun bullets in a drive-by shooting aimed at an alleged gangster, a

court heard yesterday.
Letisha Shakespeare, 17, and
Charlene Ellis, 18, stepped outside
a party for air when they were

Charlene Ellis, 18, stepped outside a party for air when they were caught in gangland violence.

As they chatted outside the Uni7 hairdressing salon in Aston, Birmingham, four men opened fire with a sub-machinegun from a blacked-out Ford Mondeo.

They sprayed 14 bullets along the wall, killing the two pals.
Charlene's sister Sophie, 18, was hit several times and her friend Cheryl Shaw, 17, once – but they survived.

The men then drove up the street firing "out of control" hitting two other cars, a jury at Leicester Crown Court heard.

Timothy Raggatt QC, prosecuting, told the court the shooting was carried out by Birmingham's Burger Bar gang in revenge for the murder of one of their members by the rival Johnson Crew four weeks earlier.

All the four girls shot on January 2, 2003, were innocent, Mr Raggatt said.

They had been standing next to Jermaine Carty, 24, who hours earlier had been spotted with a handgun on stage in a nearby club.

Weapon

Mr Raggatt said Carty – who was the intended target – drew a weapon and fired back. He escaped unhurt.
The prosecutor said the shooters' machinegun could fire 37 shots in six-second bursts.
"The girls were killed because the choice of weapon, a MAC-10 automatic, is very difficult to control, even for an expert," he added
Mr Raggatt said the girls were what the military termed "collateral damage".
"On the streets of Birmingham or any city in this country we do not have

any city in this country we do not have collateral damage – we have murder,"

any city in this country we have murder," he told the jury.

"Those in the Mondeo who opened fire with what amounts to an assault weapon in a crowd of people clearly intended to kill someone – possibly more than one person.

"We don't have to prove who fired which weapon. It was a joint enterprise."

Nathan Martin, 25, Marcus Ellis, 24, Michael Gregory, 22, Rodrigo Simms, 20, and a 22-year-old man who cannot be named, all from Birmingham, each deny two charges of murder and three of attempted murder:

Carty, who is in the same dock as his

Carty, who is in the same dock as his alleged rival gang members, denies two charges of possessing a firearm with intent.

The trial continues. who is in the same dock as his



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Backpack suspect freed

THE families of two murdered Brit backpackers are furious after the Thai police-man accused of killing them was freed on

ball.
Off-duty Det Sgt Somchai Visetsingha,
38, confessed to gunning down Adam
Lloyd, 25, and girlfriend Vanessa Arscott

23, near the River Kwai during their holi-day in Thailand. But he was freed from jail in a secret hearing last week. Vanessa's dad, Graham, from Holne, Devon, said: "I can't believe this is true." A Foreign Office spokeswoman said the department was "seeking clarification".

BLUE hunk Duncan James shocked passers-by en he had a full-blown row with a fan during a photo shoot entitle only the state of the shoot entitle only the shoot

when he had a full-blown row with a fan during a photo shock in central London.

The 25-year-old singer allegedly lost the plot when the female fan tried to spark up a conversation with him.

to spark up a conversation with him.

The shocked admirer told us: "I was talking to the three others and they were all charming. Then I tried to talk to Duncan and he lost it.

Were all charming. Then I tried to talk to Duncan and he lost it.

"He was shouting at me and claiming that I wanted to bed one of them."

"Talk about loving himself – I'd only nipped out for a bag of crisps from the corner shop."

Well, that told him...



With KATIE HIND, LEIGH PURVES and AMY



Kelly sees fertility expert

down the aisle with Billy Zane next year and that they plan to start a family.

The beautiful 24-year-old has even consulted homeopathic specialists in LA about the right herbs

IT'S with a wry smile that we bring more Swash-buckling news of EastEnders' latest bad-boy.
Our Joe-watch team has learnt that the lad behind Walford's cheeky Mickey Miller has been barred from even the seedlest bars in Corfu resort Kavos.
Joe Swash, 22, who is largin' it in Gran Canaria as we speak, was thrown out of the Futures bar after a few fellas didn't take kindly to him trying to pull their girlfriends.
Apparently the scamp was behaving like "a right prat". We await the next instalment...

The beautiful 24-year-old has even consulted homeopathic specialists in LA about the right herbs and vitamins to start taking to help fertility.

And here's us thinking that a woman in her prime like Kel would just need to follow the call of nature to find herself with child.

But the crazy world of Hollywood that the Kent-born babe has immersed herself in further since taking up with Zane, 37, never allows things to be simple.

An insider told us: "Kelly is head over heels in love with ally. And he's made no secret of the fact that he's finally ready to settle down and have kids. "They're telling everyone that they'll be having a big ceremony around spring next year She's starting to detox and prepare herself for the eventuality of motherhood.

"She's keen to start a family while she and Billy are young enough to enjoy it and she often chatted to Madonna about motherhood when she spent time with her children Lourdes and Rocco.

Healthy

Healthy

"One thing that Madonna always impressed upon Kelly is the need to use alternative aids to really prepare your body for motherhood.

"She kept in close contact with her herbalist when she was preparing to conceive Lourdes and swears that it ensured a healthy pregnancy."

Still, it seem Kelly is determined to keep her child's feet on the ground.

Our insider added: "She wants to get a few things in



TO WED: Billy and Kelly

the can. Then it'll be all about the wedding and starting a family. She's keen to give birth near her folks in England too.
"She and Billy are planning the whole shebang down to the last T so that their happy-ever-after runs to plan. In Hollywood, you take no chances."

Sounds In-Zane to us...

SOME JUICY GOSSIP GOT

month, isn't being candid about anything else.

The loved-up popstrel posted a picture of herself and 26-year-old husband Kevin Federline on her website that was taken during their honeymoon in Fiji (right).

Alongside it she wrote about how happy she is with the dancer – despite the fact that in recent pictures she's looked anything but.

Still, she's still got her riches to enjoy and didn't hesitate on forking out for a top-notch teeth-whitening job in Beverly Hills.

And she'll be digging in her pockets again if she keeps following up the treatment with ice cream and coffee.

Hopefully the Stretch-Mark
Streamliner she's booked into will help erase the other effects of those naughty cravings.